

9 forming said stopper portions on said hollow shaft  
10 member by flaring an end of the hollow shaft member while  
11 applying axial pressure on said end to produce a root  
12 portion of each stopper portion on the hollow shaft member  
13 having a thickness ( $t_1$ ) greater than an original wall  
14 thickness ( $t_2$ ) of said hollow shaft member.

4  
(consolid)  
1 23. (New) A method according to claim 22, wherein  
2 said hollow shaft member is formed of a low carbon steel  
3 pipe.

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REMARKS

Claims 9-23 have been added in order to provide more comprehensive protection for certain aspects of Applicants' invention. Accordingly, Claims 2, 5, 6, and 8-23 are pending in the application.

The new claims are distinguished from the teachings of the Sadakata reference because the reference fails to disclose formation of stopper portions of a hollow shaft member of an elastic shaft coupling by flaring the end of a hollow shaft member. Note that Sadakata teaches cold forging as distinguished from flaring. Regarding the new

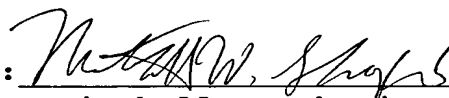
dependent claims, note especially the use of low carbon steel pipe in Claims 11, 16, 21, and 23.

In view of the above amendments and discussion, this application is believed to remain in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully requested,

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